

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 DODE-00 L-03 SS-20 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02

SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 DRC-01

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R 161006Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8316

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 17920

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: PATROL BOATS FOR THAI MARINE POLICE

REF: STATE 211846

1. IN A DISCUSSION OF NARCOTICS-CARRYING TRAWLERS EARLY THIS YEAR, THEN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIEN ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF SUPPLYING PATROL BOATS FROM US MILITARY EXCESS FOR THE MARINE POLICE. THE AMBASSADOR SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE THAI NAVY AND MARINE POLICE HAVE A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF VESSELS ALREADY WHICH THEY COULD USE FOR SURVEILLANCE AND INTERDICTION OF NARCOTICS TRAWLERS IN THE GULF OF SIAM. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS THEREFORE HESITANT TO SUGGEST THE USE OF MAP FUNDS WHEN THESE FUNDS WERE SO TIGHT. PRAPHAT SAID THE NAVY HAD NO ROLE TO PLAY IN THE TRAWLER PROGRAM.

2. A USOM STUDY DATED NOVEMBER 1972 FOUND THE MARINE POLICE OPERATING BELOW THEIR POTENTIAL. ALTHOUGH THE BASIC RESOURCES (BASES, BOATS AND PERSONNEL) WERE PRESENT, DIRECTION WAS LACKING.

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3. PLLICE SPECIAL COL. CHAK LAKSANABOONSONG IS NOW ACTING MARINE POLICE COMMANDER, REPLACING POLICE MAJ. GEN. CHAVALIT THAMTHAI WHO WAS REMOVED LAST MONTH AFTER HE HAD BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF CORRUPTION. THE MARINE POLICE UNDER CHAK ARE COOPERATING MORE ACTIVELY THAN BEFORE IN THE TRAWLER SURVEILLANCE AND INTERDICTION PROGRAM.

4. WE SHOULD SUPPORT THE NEW MARINE POLICE LEADERSHIP'S INTEREST IN THE TRAWLER PROGRAM. THE MISSION IS NOW STUDYING MARINE POLICE RESOURCES AND PROCEDURES IN VIEW OF ITS MORE ACTIVE ROLE AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAWLERS. WE WILL COMPLETE THIS STUDY BY THE END OF NOVEMBER. IT MAY BE THAT THE MARINE POLICE NEED ASSISTANCE IN MAINTENANCE AND SPARE PARTS FOR EXISTING ASSETS RATHER THAN NEW BOATS. WE WILL ADVISE FURTHER ONCE THE STUDY IS COMPLETED.
SCHODT

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